ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Custom logging allows users deploying a proxy cache to customize information logged by the proxy cache. Users may choose to log a certain set of fields in any suitable order within log files. Each log file contains headers that

5 define the set of fields logged, thereby making the log file self-contained for analysis tools. Proxy cache customers use log files for several purposes including monitoring and billing. The invention provides a single structure that controls whether a field is selected for logging or not, and its position within the log file. Changes to the format can be made while the proxy cache is running, causing a

10 new header to be written to the log file and enabling administrators to alter the log format on the fly.